

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 SAJ-01

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R 190827Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8013

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18157

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, UR, US
SUBJECT: US-SOVIET CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 283315; (B) MOSCOW 17561; (C) STATE 276769

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1. DECEMBER 18 MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION CALLED IN MOSCOW
PAN AM REPRESENTATIVE DRAHORAD AND ECON COUNSELOR TO DISCUSS
RECENT WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS ON BILATERAL CIVIL AVIATION
MATTERS. SOVIET DELEGATION CHIEF SAMORUKHOV CHARACTERIZED
SOVIET ATTITUDE AS FOLLOWS: QTE IN GENERAL, USSR IS NOT AT
ALL DISAPPOINTED WITH RESULTS OF WASHINGTON TALKS. THE
FUTURE LOOKS PROMISING AND THE SOVIETS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SEE
THAT WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD A GENUINE CONSTRUCTIVE
DIALOGUE. UNQTE

2. NOTING THAT DESPITE UNPROMISING START WITH NEWS OF CAB
REFUSAL OF FIVE SOVIET CHARTER APPLICATIONS, DISCUSSIONS WERE
HELPFUL, SAMORUKHOV MENTIONED SOVIET NOTE REPORTED REFTEL B
AND ASKED WHETHER RECIPROCAL US NOTE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING
(AS PROVIDED IN NOVEMBER 21 MEMORANDUM).
HE SAID SOVIETS REGARD THIS EXCHANGE AS CONVENIENT WAY
OF SETTING CIVAIR TALKS WITHIN FOREIGN AFFAIRS FRAMEWORK
AND THAT THIS IS NEEDED ON SOVIET SIDE BECAUSE
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THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WERE LED BY CIVAIR MINISTRY RATHER

THAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

3. LOOKING FORWARD, SAMORUKHOV COMMENTED THAT AS HE UNDERSTANDS, ABOUT THREE MONTHS ARE NEEDED FOR THE USG TO EVALUATE ANY FREQUENCY AGREEMENT BETWEEN AEROFLOT AND PAN AM. IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THE NEXT INTER-GOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS BY JUNE 30, 1976 AS CALLED FOR IN THE NOVEMBER 21 MEMORANDUM OF CONSULTATIONS, SOVIET CIVIL AUTHORITIES HOPE THAT THE TWO CARRIERS WILL MEET SHORTLY, PREFERABLY BEFORE THE END OF JANUARY, AND THAT THEY WILL WORK OUT SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR STRENGTHENING COMMERCIAL COOPERATION.

4. SAMORUKHOV NEXT TOUCHED UPON CHARTER QUESTION, EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT TENTATIVE SCHEDULES BE AGREED UPON BETWEEN AIRLINES AND THEN SUBMITTED TO GOVERNMENTS. HE RECOGNIZED THAT THIS MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE GIVEN NUMBER OF US CARRIERS POTENTIALLY INTERESTED IN MARKET AND COMPETITIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US AIRLINES.

5. ACCORDING TO SAMORUKHOV, THE SOVIETS UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS UNREALISTIC TO THINK A REGULAR SESSION OF INTER-GOVERNMENTAL TALKS COULD BE ARRANGED BEFORE JUNE. THEY URGE, HOWEVER, THAT AN INFORMAL INTERIM MEETING BE HELD, PERHAPS IN MARCH OR APRIL, TO ATTEMPT TO BRING US AND SOVIET APPROACHES TO PRINCIPAL QUESTIONS CLOSER, TO AGREE ON METHODOLOGY, ETC. SAMORUKHOV STRESSED HIS PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS FOR PURPOSES OF OVERCOMING SOME OF PAST STRAINS IN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AND BUILDING CLOSER COMMUNICATION WITH US AVIATION AUTHORITIES. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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6. IMPLICIT IN CONVERSATION WAS SAMORUKHOV'S WISH TO SHIFT ATMOSPHERE OF BILATERAL CONTACTS FROM PUGNACIOUS APPROACH TYPICAL OF HIS CHIEF, S. S. PAVLOV, TOWARD LESS EMOTION-PACKED ATTITUDES. EQUALLY CLEAR WAS THAT SOVIETS CAN BE EXPECTED TO REACT POSITIVELY TO A US PROPOSAL REGARDING REVENUE POOLING. CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR SCHEDULES, SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES, AVIATION AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW18157
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750441-0691
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751224/aaaaauts.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 283315, 75 MOSCOW 17561, 75 STATE 276769
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-SOVIET CIVIL NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: EAIR, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006